

the water supply. As indicated, protecting our water supply is important to the future of this nation and ensuring that our children are protected from any terrorist act. H.R. 3178, I believe has the greatest potential to ensure the safety of our water systems.

AMERICAN YOUTH

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the best aspects of our job is the ability to call to the attention of our colleagues, examples of the leadership, maturity, patriotism and values of our American youth. I have inserted in the RECORD a speech from the June 2001 eighth grade graduation address of Michael Robert Glennon. He was the President of the Student Council at Sheridan School in Washington, DC.

Michael is currently a ninth grader at the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Connecticut.

Parents, Grandparents, Faculty, Students, Special Guests, and Classmates, welcome and thank you for sharing our special day. I am honored to be here representing my fellow graduates to discuss the Sheridan experience and everything that the Sheridan community has meant to us.

First, however, we must be thankful for the love, efforts, and wisdom of our parents who have made possible the privilege of a Sheridan education. Thank you parents.

What do we mean by the Sheridan experience? Sheridan can not be defined simply by what happens on the sports field or in the classroom. It is after school, during recess, and during lunch, when students and teachers interact on a more personal level. That is what makes Sheridan so unique and contributes to each and every one of our Sheridan experiences.

Community service for those less fortunate than ourselves; the appreciation of nature at the mountain campus that has made us all better stewards of our environment; both of these are hallmarks of the Sheridan experience.

No graduate will soon forget the times we've had or the things we've learned. But more importantly, we won't forget each other. The friendships we have made will stick with us the rest of our lives. It is very rare that you get to have such a close relationship with your fellow classmates at school. Although sometimes it is frustrating to have such a small class and small school, in the end it is uniquely Sheridan because your classmates and school are always there for you in any situation. All of us, including me, can remember when Sheridan was there to support us, to share our joy, or lessen our sorrow. If there is one thing we all take away from Sheridan it is the friendships we have made.

On behalf of my entire class and the entire student body, I would like to thank the faculty and the wonderful staff. All of you have helped us in ways you can not imagine. Thank you especially to all of the teachers who have taught us over the years. Mrs. Lytle in kindergarten, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Curtis in second grade. Mrs. Goldstein in third and fifth grade. Mrs. Pelton, Mrs. Arcuri, Ms. Provonsil, Mr. Walton, Mrs. Cresswell, Mr. Powell, Mrs. Kotler, Mrs.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Haggerty, Senorita Fabiola, Mrs. Garcia deMendoza, Mrs. Sacher and Madame. Of course, a special thanks to Ms. Brown and Mr. Helfand for helping us through this year and the high school admissions process. Mr. Plummer, thank you for being a great principal, always smiling, and always having candy.

In conclusion, earlier I mentioned the privilege of a Sheridan education.

However, this privilege demands responsibility from all of us here today. A responsibility to be a friend, a responsibility to help others, and a responsibility to respect our environment.

But most importantly, a responsibility to honor the values and education we were privileged to receive. The Sheridan experience has shaped our lives.

Thank you parents, thank you teachers, thank you classmates, thank you Sheridan.

ON THE DECISION OF SECRETARY OF ENERGY SPENCER ABRAHAM TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE THE FAST FLUX TEST FACILITY ON THE HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION NEAR RICHLAND, WA

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Secretary Abraham's decision to permanently close the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) located on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Washington.

The FFTF is a 400-megawatt sodium cooled nuclear reactor that operated from 1982 to 1992 to test advanced fuels and materials in support of the national Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Program. In 1992, this use was terminated. The FFTF then became a facility without a mission. When efforts to identify a long-term mission for the FFTF were unsuccessful, the Department of Energy moved the plant into a standby shutdown.

For nearly ten years, this standby mode cost the American taxpayers \$32 million per year, even though there was no functional purpose for maintaining this standby status. I have twice introduced legislation to permanently close this environmentally risky, fiscally wasteful, and technologically unnecessary facility.

Mr. Speaker, nuclear contamination from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation has long threatened the Columbia River and the hundreds of thousands of Oregonians living downstream. The millions of dollars previously spent keeping the FFTF on standby can finally be used to perform the clean up that is essential to ensure environmental safety and clean drinking water for Oregonians.

The Department of Energy has taken an important step today to remedy the environmental problems caused by the Hanford facility. I look forward to working with Secretary Abraham in the coming months and years to ensure that Hanford will no longer pose a health threat to those living in the Columbia River region.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOMAS MOORE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Thomas Moore of Grand Junction, Colorado and thank him for his service to this country. Thomas began his service to our nation as a sailor, joining the Navy at a young age to travel and experience the world. Early in his service, Thomas participated in a moment that would change the world and bring this nation into war. The moment was Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Thomas was assigned to the battleship USS *Maryland* on that December morning. He was serving as a hospital apprentice, learning the skills to assist surgeons in operating procedures. As his ship, along with other ships, were bombed and torpedoed in the harbor, Thomas was thrust into a position to save men's lives. He spent the next several days assisting the wounded with their battle injuries and doing what he could to ease the shock and pain of U.S. sailors.

As a result of the attack that day, twelve U.S. ships were sunk, beached, or destroyed by Japanese action. The U.S. armed forces suffered heavy casualties losing 2,400 men to enemy action and 1,100 casualties as a result of enemy fire. This nation was given no choice but to declare war on Japan and thus enter World War II. Thomas, like many other servicemen and women, would know the horrors of war for the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor let us also remember the recent victims of our nation's quest for freedom. The attacks on this country September 11 again have plunged us into war. As we fight to redeem our fallen friends let us also pay tribute to the soldiers throughout our nation's history who gave their lives to protect our way of life. It's dedicated men like Thomas Moore to whom we should pay homage and thank for his service to this nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WESTERN STATE COLLEGE CROSS-COUNTRY TEAMS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding group of dedicated young men and women from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. The group is the men's and women's cross country teams, who for the second year in a row brought back to their school a national championship. I would like to commend them on their efforts and mention several of their accomplishments.

The teams this year won the national title at Slippery Rock State University in Pennsylvania. By taking the title this year and in 2000,

Western State has made cross-country history. It is only the second time in NCAA I, II, III Championships that both a men's and women's team from the same school have taken both titles. Their latest achievement culminates a successful year for all the athletes on the team. All of this was accomplished under the guidance and leadership of their coach Duane Vandenbusche, who for his efforts was awarded Coach of the Year at a conference, regional, and national level.

Mr. Speaker, I am always proud to recognize the accomplishments of those who have dedicated their time and efforts to achieving a difficult goal. The Mountaineers of Western State College have made great sacrifices in their lives and have done a wonderful job representing the College and the State of Colorado. Their championship is well deserved and I look forward to watching their next season with pride and admiration.

TRIBUTE TO CELIA HUNTER

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great conservationist, Celia Hunter, who died December 1 at the age of 82. We need to acknowledge heroes of the conservation community like Celia so that future generations may see and know what made this country the great nation that it is today, what shaped us as a freedom-loving people, and what made us kind and considerate stewards of the land.

Though she was born and raised in Arlington, Washington, Celia's greatest contributions came in protecting our last frontier, Alaska. Our national parks, our wildlife refuges, and our national forests in Alaska have come to be heirlooms that we may pass on to our children and their children in large part because of Celia Hunter.

Celia was a member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, flying fighter planes from factories where they were built to airfields and ports for use in World War II. She and lifelong friend Ginny Wood then had the opportunity to fly surplus planes to Alaska. They landed in Fairbanks on January 1, 1947 with temperatures at minus 50 degrees and never looked back.

Celia, Ginny Wood, and Ginny's husband Woody built Denali Camp in 1951 on the edge of then-Mt. McKinley National Park. Their vision for an ecologically friendly, conservation-education, backcountry camp survives today under the management of Wally and Geri Cole, who purchased the tourism accommodation from Celia and Ginny in 1975. In 1960, Celia and Ginny, with a few others in Fairbanks, founded the Alaska Conservation Society, the first statewide conservation organization run entirely by volunteers. The Alaska Conservation Society was the precursor to today's three regional organizations, the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, and the Alaska Center for the Environment, as well as the Alaska Conservation Foundation, another

organization Celia helped to establish and on whose board she served for two decades. In the latter part of the 1970s, Celia served as executive director of the Wilderness Society, and in 1991 the Sierra Club awarded Celia its highest achievement award, the John Muir Award.

She also fought, literally until her death, to preserve the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I had the opportunity to visit this beautiful land in July, and while there I witnessed an explosion taking place on the coastal plane of the Arctic—an explosion of life. In fifty years of exploring the back country of America, from Yellowstone to the Appalachian Trail, I have never seen such activity—birds singing, caribou calving, and tundra flowers blooming. It was hard to take a step in the soggy, tussock-filled tundra without scaring up a well-camouflaged ptarmigan, stepping on some happy Mountain Aven blossom, or spying a bunch of caribou heading for their traditional calving grounds. The Arctic Refuge represents the largest intact ecosystem in America, a unique expanse where industrialization has not broken one link in the chain of life.

Celia Hunter was an inspiration to a generation of wilderness enthusiasts and others who wished to make the world a better place. In a 1986 interview she said, "Each one of us has a responsibility to take care of the part of the world we live in." Celia wanted to live in a world where there were wild places, peace and quiet, and compassion for her fellow man and woman. In this vision, she led by example, and she will be sorely missed, but never forgotten by those who worked with her, lived near her, and met her.

CONGRATULATING GUAM'S ROTC PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to congratulate the University of Guam's (UOG) Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program upon their distinction as the best in the nation for mission accomplishment and quality. UOG's ROTC program, the Triton Warrior Battalion, was recently ranked number one out of 270 programs evaluated nationwide. This is a first for them, an achievement for a program smaller than many of its counterparts. This recognition makes our island very proud and is testament to the hard work of the cadets, cadre, and recruiters of the Triton Warrior Battalion.

Since the founding of UOG's ROTC program in 1979, students have been well trained to become commissioned officers in both the active and reserve components of the U.S. Army. The program has commissioned some of Guam's finest men and women as officers and produced some of the Army's most exceptional leaders. In its 22 years, the program at UOG has commissioned over 240 Second Lieutenants, and this year they are expected to commission 20 more.

The U.S. Army Cadet Command, the supervising headquarters for all ROTC battalions

nationwide, annually assesses ROTC programs. A multitude of criteria is used to determine performance ranking. While enrollment, retention, basic camp attendance, commission and contract accomplishment are all part of the criteria, the most important factors contributing to the evaluation are commission and contract accomplishments.

Commission accomplishment is based on the number of cadets commissioned in the course of a year. This year, UOG's ROTC program received a commission mission of ten, however, they surpassed that number by commissioning 20 officers. Next year, they have been tasked to commission 12 and it is expected that they will again exceed the tasked commission requirement by doubling the number of commissioned officers. In 2003, it is anticipated that the commission accomplishment will exceed the requirements three times over.

UOG's ROTC program's contract accomplishment is the ability of the program to meet its fiscal year missions and goals for contracting cadets into the advanced course for juniors advancing toward senior status. While the contract mission for fiscal year 2002 is 20 cadets, UOG's ROTC program has exceeded expectations and contracted 34 cadets. Presently, UOG's ROTC program has 111 cadets enrolled, however they continue to witness an annual enrollment increase.

During these difficult and trying times, the men and women of the Triton Warrior Battalion are to be commended. Together, they are an excellent example of the leadership, determination and courage needed to safeguard our freedoms and our democracy. My congratulations to all the cadets and instructors of UOG's ROTC program. May they continue to achieve success in the years to come.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, with my colleague NANCY PELOSI, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to strengthen our nation's commitment to preventing teen pregnancy.

The United States has the highest rates of teen pregnancy and births in the western industrialized world. Nearly four in 10 young women become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20—one million a year.

This is a problem that has a devastating impact on California as a whole (which has the second worst teen pregnancy rate in the nation) and Hispanic teenagers in particular, who have the highest rates of teen pregnancy of any ethnic group. The cost to the United States in health care and education alone is at least \$7 billion annually, and the human cost in dreams deferred and children with limited opportunities is immeasurable. Reducing unwanted pregnancies also reduces the number of abortions.

We must act now to build on the success of existing programs that have helped reduce